

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND *PATENT*
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Yasuhiro UMEKAGE, et al.
Int'l Serial No: PCT/JP00/04165
Priority Date: June 24, 1999
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
TITLE: FLOWMETER

Docket No: 29288.4600
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Serial No.: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee and prior to examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following preliminary amendment:

In the Claims:

✓ Please cancel claims 1-69 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following claims 70-148:

70. (NEW) A flowmeter, comprising:

transmission/reception means for transmitting/receiving a signal using a state change of fluid that flows in a flow path;

repetition means for repeating the transmission/reception of the signal by the transmission/reception means a predetermined number of times;

time measurement means for measuring a propagation time of a state change of the fluid during when the transmission/reception of the signal is repeated by the repetition means;

flow rate detection means for detecting a flow rate of the fluid based on the propagation time measured by the time measurement means;

2000/019416

AI
Cant.